

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

### **LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**

**Please amend claims 1, 2, and 3 as follows:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a soil improving material derived from marine resources, wherein the soil improving material comprises calcium carbonate existing separately from organic matrix, comprising the steps of:

burning marine resources shells of shellfish including scallops, oysters, corbiculas and the like, under burning conditions for degrading the organic matrix to such an extent that calcium carbonate may be separated from the organic matrix, said marine resources comprising calcium carbonate and organic matrix enclosing calcium carbonate as main components, and

pulverizing the burnt material obtained in said burning step to separate calcium carbonate therein;

said pulverizing step comprises crushing the burnt material mechanically and passing said resultant crashed material through a wire sieve of mesh size from 60 (250 micro meters) to 80 (177 micro meters), and.

said burning step is either (A) for carbonizing or (B) for ashing:

(A) said burning step is carried out under burning conditions comprises a burning temperature from 600 degrees Centigrade to 700 degrees Centigrade, and a burning time from 5 minutes to 20 minutes;

(B) said burning conditions comprises a burning temperature from 770°C to 830°C, and a burning time from 25 minutes to 45 minutes, using natural gas for a fuel and a radiant heat furnace which are together capable of degrading calcium oxide generated in the step.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The method for producing a~~ A soil improving material derived from marine resources which is capable of use on the very day of manufacture spreading without deleterious effect, characterized in that the soil improving material is

produced by the method according to claim 1, characterized in that said marine resources are shells of scallops, oysters, corbiculas and the like shellfish with the burning step (A), the soil improving material contains calcium carbonate 98% by weight or more, alkali content from 50% to 60%, and particles with a diameter of 250 micro meters or less represents 90% to 100% by weight of the total weight.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The method for producing a~~ A soil improving material derived from marine resources which is capable of use on the very day of manufacture spreading without deleterious effect, characterized in that the soil improving material is produced by the method according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said with the burning step (A), is carried out under burning conditions for carbonizing said organic matrix, and in the burning step, a burnt material, which consists of undegraded calcium carbonate and carbonized organic matrix, may be obtained the soil improving material contains calcium carbonate 70% by weight or more, alkali content from 60% to 65%, and particles with a diameter of 250 micro meters or less represents 90% to 100% by weight of the total weight.

4. (Original) The method for producing a soil improving material derived from marine resources according to claim 3, characterized in that said burning conditions comprises a burning temperature from 560°C to 740°C, and a burning time from 3 minutes to 25 minutes.

5. (Original) The method for producing a soil improving material derived from marine resources according to claim 3, characterized in that said burning conditions comprises a burning temperature from 600°C to 700°C, and a burning time from 5 minutes to 20 minutes.

**Please amend claims 6, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 as follows:**

6. (Currently Amended) The method for producing the soil improving material derived from marine resources according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, characterized in that said burning step is carried out under burning conditions for ashing said organic matrix, and in the

burning step, a burnt material, which consists of undegraded calcium carbonate and ashed organic matrix, may be obtained.

7. (Original) The method for producing a soil improving material derived from marine resources according to claim 6, characterized in that said burning conditions comprises a burning temperature from 720°C to 900°C, and a burning time from 25 minutes to 45 minutes.

8. (Original) The method for producing a soil improving material derived from marine resources according to claim 6, characterized in that the burning conditions comprises a burning temperature from 750°C to 850°C, and a burning time from 25 minutes to 45 minutes.

9. (Original) The method for producing a soil improving material derived from marine resources according to claim 6, characterized in that said burning conditions comprises a burning temperature from 770°C to 830°C, and a burning time from 25 minutes to 45 minutes.

10. (Currently Amended) The method for producing a soil improving material derived from marine resources according to ~~any of claims 6 to 9~~ claim 6, characterized in that said burning step comprises use of a fuel and a furnace which are together capable of degrading calcium oxide generated in the step.

11. (Original) The method for producing a soil improving material derived from marine resources according to claim 10, characterized in that said fuel is natural gas and said furnace is a radiant heat furnace.

12. (Currently Amended) The method for producing a soil improving material derived from marine resources according to ~~any of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, characterized in that said pulverizing step comprises crushing the burnt material mechanically and passing said resultant crashed material through a wire sieve of mesh size from 60 (250 µm) to 80 (177 µm).

13. (Currently Amended) A soil improving material derived from marine resources, characterized in that the soil improving material is produced by burning a raw material, and contains calcium carbonate of 98% by weight or more and alkali content from 50% to 60%, wherein said raw material is shells of shellfish including scallops, oysters, corbiculas ~~or and~~ the like ~~shellfish~~ containing calcium carbonate and organic matrix enclosing calcium carbonate as main components.

14. (Currently Amended) A soil improving material derived from marine resources produced by the method according to ~~any of claims 2 to 12~~ claim 2, characterized in that the soil improving material contains calcium carbonate 98% by weight or more and alkali content from 50% to 60%.

15. (Currently Amended) A soil improving material derived from marine resources, which is produced by burning a raw material of shells of shellfish including scallops, oysters, corbiculas and the like ~~shellfish~~ containing calcium carbonate and organic matrix enclosing calcium carbonate as main components, characterized in that particles with a diameter of 250  $\mu\text{m}$  or less represents 90 to 100% by weight of the total weight.

16. (Currently Amended) A soil improving material derived from marine resources produced by the method according to ~~any of claims 2 to 12~~ claim 2, characterized in that particles with a diameter of 250  $\mu\text{m}$  or less represents 90 to 100% by weight of the total weight.